

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An emboli extraction catheter and vascular filter system comprising a guidewire, a vascular filter attached near the distal end of the guidewire, and an emboli extraction catheter. The vascular filter has a smaller first diameter for insertion into the lumen of a vessel, and a second larger diameter for expanding to substantially equal the diameter of the lumen and to be placed in generally sealing relationship with the lumen. The emboli extraction catheter is a flexible catheter comprising a hub attached to the proximal end of the catheter. The hub further comprises a sideport and means for maintaining a seal on the guidewire. The emboli extraction catheter can be used to aspirate embolic particulates, so as to avoid their accidental release after they are captured in a vascular filter, and can also be used to empty full vascular filters of embolic particulates which may block distal flow.